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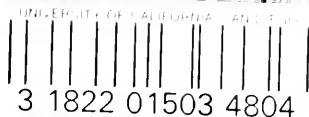
THE ARGENTINE REPUBLIC

GENERAL DESCRIPTIVE DATA
PREPARED IN JUNE, 1909



WASHINGTON, D. C.
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

1909



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ARGENTINE REPUBLIC

The Argentine Republic, the third largest of the American Republics, is situated between latitude 22° and 56° south and longitude west of Greenwich 53° and 57° , being bounded by the Republics of Chile, Bolivia, Paraguay, Brazil, Uruguay, and the Atlantic Ocean. It has an area of 1,135,840 square miles, equal to about one-half the total area of the United States of America, and a population of 6,100,361, or 5.4 per square mile, as against 23.2 in the United States of America.

Stretching over 34° of latitude, the country presents a variety of climate and products, ranging from tropical in the north to arctic in the south, but the larger part of its territory lies within the temperate zone. The broad, fertile plains extending from the Atlantic to the foot of the Andes, occasionally broken by a series of low mountains, afford excellent pasturage for thousands of cattle, and nearly all cereals, especially wheat, corn, and oats, are successfully cultivated. Other industrial articles produced in export quantities are hides and skins of all kinds, and the valuable quebracho wood and its extract. Sugar, cotton, tobacco, and grapes are largely grown, but mostly for home consumption. The mountains contain rich deposits of silver, copper, and gold, which are as yet exploited to a limited extent only.

HISTORICAL SKETCH.

The Spanish navigator, JUAN DE SOLIS, in search of a passage to the Pacific Ocean, was the first European to explore the Rio de la Plata, in the year 1508 and again in 1515. SEBASTIAN CABOT subsequently explored the country, sailing up the Parana and Paraguay rivers in 1526.

PEDRO DE MENDOZA was appointed Governor of the country by the Spanish Crown in 1536, and founded what is now the city of Buenos Aires. The settlement was, however, destroyed by the Indians, and it was not until the year 1576, when JUAN DE GARAY became Governor, that any serious attempt was again made to colonize the country. The Province of Uruguay, as the entire territory was then called, was placed under the jurisdiction of the Viceroy of Peru, but in 1776 the La Plata country had become of sufficient importance to warrant the establishment of a separate viceroyalty, and Don PEDRO DE CEVALLOS was appointed Viceroy of the Rio de la Plata Provinces.

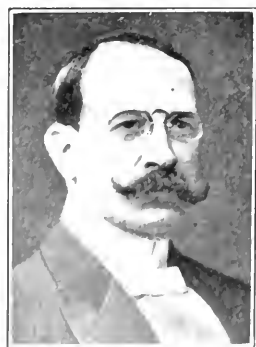
In the year 1805 Great Britain, then at war with Spain, attempted to seize the city of Buenos Aires, which had become an important trade center, but the British troops were unsuccessful, and in the following year they temporarily abandoned the contest. Within less than a year, however, the attempt was again made to capture the city, the British being again and finally defeated on July 6, 1807.

The war for independence from Spanish rule began on May 25, 1810, Don MANUEL BELGRANO, General SAN MARTIN, and Admiral GUILLERMO BROWN being among the distinguished patriots engaged in the struggle. The Spanish troops were defeated both by water and by land on June 22, 1814, and were obliged to abandon the fort of Montevideo, their last stronghold in the La Plata Provinces.

A constitutional Assembly, which convened at Tucuman, formally declared the independence of the "Provincias Unidas del Rio de la Plata" (United Provinces of the La Plata River), on July 9, 1816, and vested the executive authority in a Supreme Director; Don JUAN MARTIN DE Pueyrredon being elected to that position. The title of Republic was subsequently changed to that of Argentine Republic and later to Argentine Confederation and finally, in the year 1860, to Argentine Nation, which is now its official designation. In the year 1824 the executive power was vested in a President of the Republic, and Don BERNARDO RIVADAVIA was inaugurated as the first executive of this office on February 7, 1825.

The incorporation of the territory now constituting the Republic of Uruguay into the Argentine Confederation resulted in war with Brazil. This war began on December 10, 1825, and lasted until 1827, when a treaty of peace was concluded, on February 20, whereby the independence of Uruguay was guaranteed.

Among the great men of the Argentine Nation may be mentioned Don BARTOLOMÉ MITRE, author, statesman, soldier, and patriot, who commanded the allied forces in the war with Paraguay; Don DOMINGO FAUSTINO SARMIENTO, the great educator, who organized the school system of the Republic; Don NICOLAS AVELLANEDA, who stimulated commerce and industries; and Don JULIO ROCA, who subdued the troublesome Indians of the Chaco and successfully averted a war with Chile which threatened to eventuate as the result of a boundary dispute.



Don MANUEL QUINTANA was inaugurated President of the Republic on October 12, 1901, but died on March 12, 1906, before the expiration of his term of office. He was succeeded by the then Vice-President, Dr. JOSÉ FICALGO ALCORVA, whose term of office will expire on October 11, 1910.



STATUE OF GENERAL SAN MARTIN, BUENOS AIRES.

CONSTITUTION AND GOVERNMENT.

The Argentine Republic is one of the five American Republics which have adopted the Federal Union of States as its form of government, the others being the United States of America, the United States of Brazil, the United Mexican States, and the United States of Venezuela. All the other American Republics have a unitary or centralized form of government.

The constitution adopted May 1, 1853, modeled closely after that of the United States of America, provides for the usual three branches of government—the legislative, executive, and judicial.

The legislative power is vested in the National Congress, consisting of the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies, the former with 30 members and the latter with 120. Senators are elected by the legislatures of the States, usually called "provinces," and in the federal district by a special body of electors, for a term of nine years, two senators being named for each province and two for the federal district. The Senate is, however, renewed by thirds every three years. Deputies are elected by direct popular vote, for a term of four years, in the proportion of one for every 33,000 inhabitants. The Chamber of Deputies is renewed by halves every two years.

The President of the Republic, assisted by a cabinet of eight ministers or secretaries of state, exercises the executive authority. The President and Vice-President are elected indirectly, as in the United States, by electors chosen by the people for that purpose, and for a term of six years. Neither the President nor the Vice-President may be elected for a second term immediately following their incumbency of the office. The Vice-President is the President of the Senate.

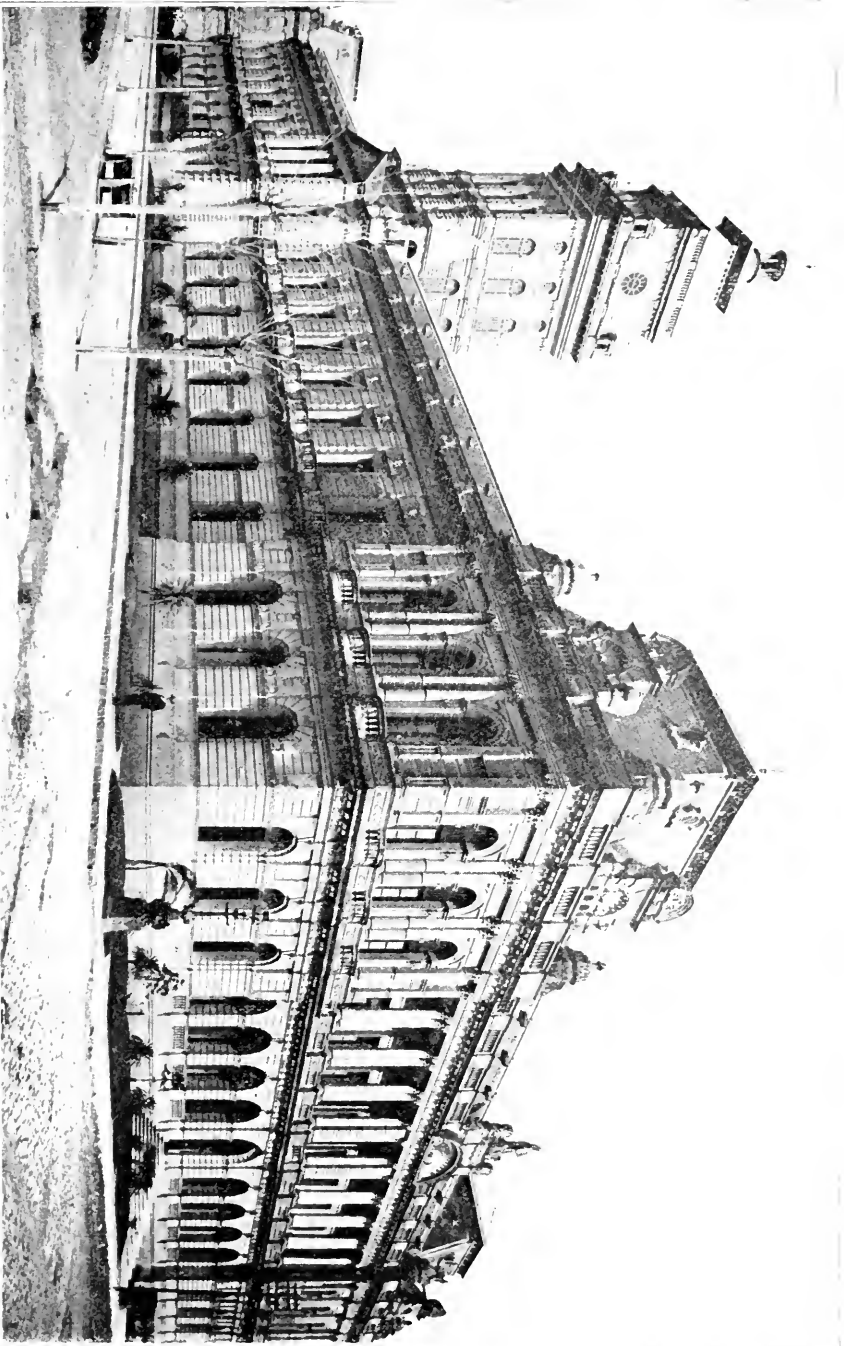
The judiciary is composed of a national supreme court for courts of appeals and courts of first instance. Each province has its own judiciary. The supreme court is composed of five judges and the courts of appeals of three judges each, appointed by the President of the Republic.

President	DR. JOSÉ FIGUEROA ALCORTA.
Minister of the Interior	DR. MARCO AVALLANEDA.
Minister of Foreign Affairs	DR. VICTORINO DE LA PLAZA.
Minister of the Treasury	DR. MANUEL DE IRIONDO.
Minister of Justice and Public Instruction	DR. S. S. NAÓN.
Minister of Public Works	DR. ENRIQUE RAMOS MENA.
Minister of Agriculture	SR. PEDRO EZCURRA.
Minister of War	SR. GENERAL RAFAEL M. AGUIRRE.
Minister of Marine	REAR-ADMIRAL OXOFER BETHEBER.

The salary of the President is P72,000 (\$36,000) per annum.

INTERIOR GOVERNMENT.

The Argentine Republic is divided into 14 provinces, 10 territories, and 1 federal district, the provinces being autonomous in their in-



COURTS OF JUSTICE, ROSARIO.

terior government, while the executive authority in the territories is vested in a Governor appointed by the President of the Republic. The federal district is administered by an intendente, or mayor, who is likewise appointed by the President, and assisted by a municipal council elected by the people.

The following are the political divisions of the Argentine Republic:

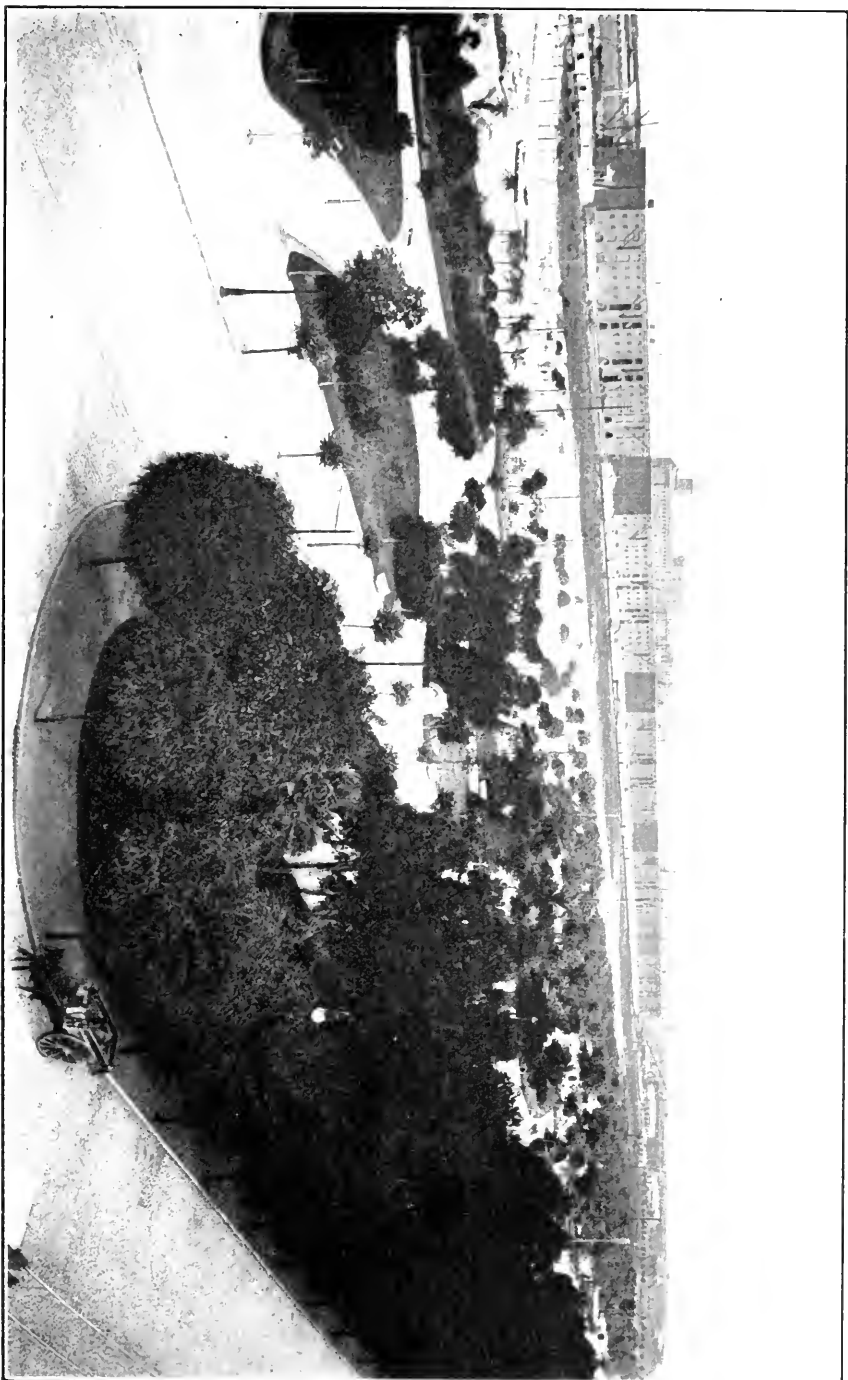
Federal district of Buenos Aires, capital of the Republic.

Province of—	Capital.
Buenos Aires.....	La Plata.
Catamarca.....	Catamarca.
Cordoba.....	Cordoba.
Corrientes.....	Corrientes.
Entre Rios.....	Parana.
Jujuy.....	Jujuy.
Mendoza.....	Mendoza.
Rioja.....	La Rioja.
Salta.....	Salta.
San Juan.....	San Juan.
Santa Fe.....	Santa Fe.
Santiago del Estero.....	Santiago del Estero.
San Luis.....	San Luis.
Tucuman.....	Tucuman.
Territory of—	
Chaco.....	Resistencia.
Chubut.....	Rawson.
Formosa.....	Formosa.
Los Andes.....	San Antonio de los Cobres.
Misiones.....	Posadas.
Neuquen.....	Chos-Malal.
Pampa Central.....	General Acha.
Rio Negro.....	Viedma.
Santa Cruz.....	Puerto Gallegos.
Tierra del Fuego.....	Ushuaia.

ARMY AND NAVY.

Under a law enacted in 1901, military service in the Argentine Republic is compulsory. All able-bodied citizens must serve from their twentieth to their forty-fifth year, nominally for a period of twenty-five years, although the actual service rarely extends beyond one year. There are two reserve corps— the National Guard, comprising all citizens between the ages of 28 and 40 years, and the Territorial Guard, composed of citizens over 40 years of age. Those under 28 and over 20 serve for one year with the colors. Naturalized citizens are exempt from military duty for a term of ten years after their naturalization.

The Republic is divided into five military districts, each with a district commander. In case of mobilization each district must provide two divisions, making a total of ten divisions of 12,000 men each. This does not include the National or Territorial Guards.



PASEO COLON, BUENOS AIRES.

This beautiful promenade is on made ground, adjacent to the extensive docks of Buenos Aires, and was formerly an open and unattractive plot of land.

On a peace footing the Argentine army consists of 1,560 officers and 16,000 men.

Education of army officers is provided for at the Military College at San Martin, a short distance from Buenos Aires, where ample opportunities for a thorough training are afforded, while the Naval



CAVALRYMAN, ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.

The cavalry branch of Argentina's standing army consists of eleven regiments. The men are expert horsemen, and this branch of the national service appeals to them. The mounts are of small stature—strong, hardy, and high-spirited, but very tractable.

Academy, located in a beautiful park, in the suburb of Flores, provides education for officers of the naval service.

The Argentine navy consists of 4 armored cruisers of the first class, of 6,840 tons each, the *San Martin*, *General Belgrano*, *Pueyrre-*

don, and *Garibaldi*; 3 ironclads, the *Almirante Brown*, of 4,200 tons, the *Libertad*, and *Independencia*, of 2,300 tons each; 2 monitors, *El Plata* and *Los Andes*, of 1,535 tons each; 4 cruisers of the second class, the *Buenos Aires*, *9 de Julio*, *25 de Mayo*, and *Patagonia*, of 4,700, 3,560, 3,200, and 1,530 tons, respectively; also 3 destroyers, 2 torpedo cruisers, 24 torpedo boats, 1 school-ship, 5 transports, and a number of auxiliary vessels.

The officers of the navy number 493, including engineers, while the number of enlisted men varies from 5,000 to 6,000, according to the number of conscripts recruited annually.

THE ARGENTINE REPUBLIC IN 1908.

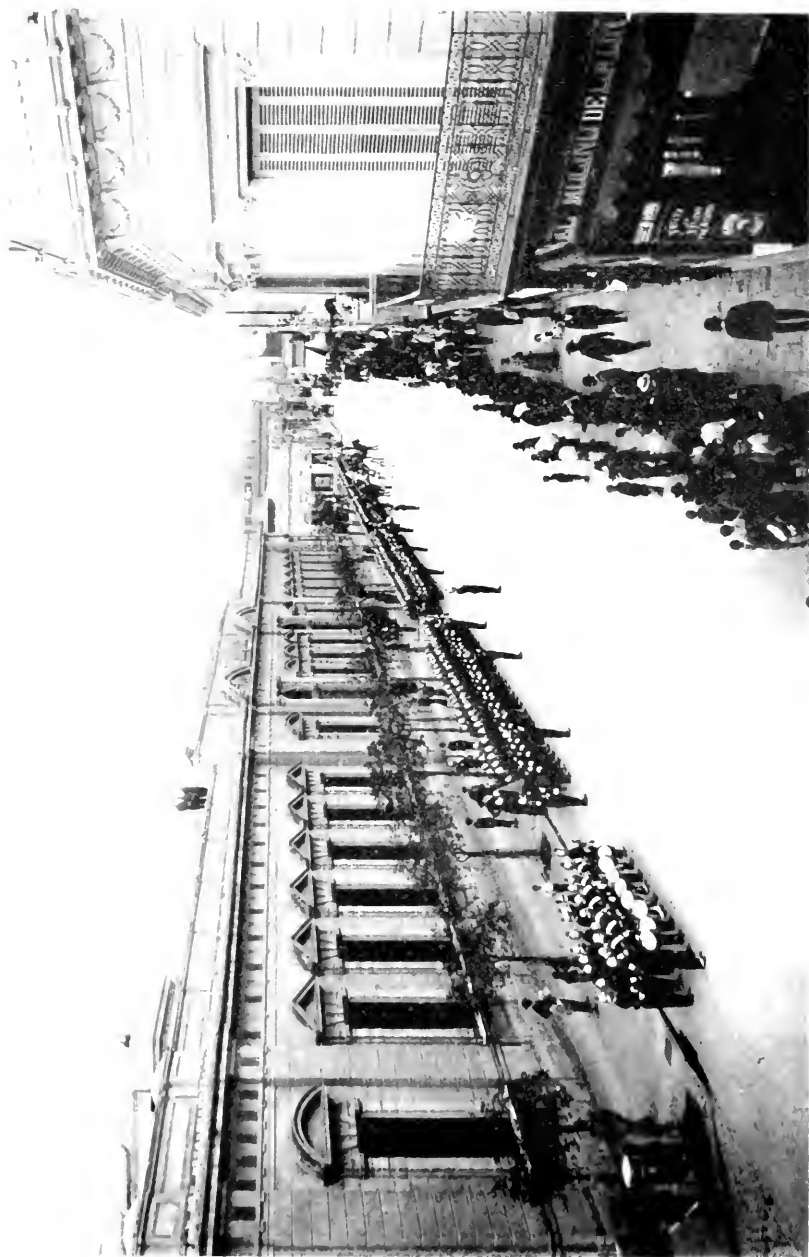
The year 1908 was one of steady progress and prosperity in the history of the Argentine Republic. Agriculture, which forms the basis of the nation's wealth, made signally prosperous returns: the wheat crop was the largest ever harvested; linseed exports made a new record; and though maize suffered somewhat from the effects of drought, large shipments were reported, and in the status of oats on the export returns, a gain of 150 per cent was reported. The pastoral industries also made satisfactory returns, exports of frozen meats showing considerable advance over the preceding year, though shipments of live cattle still remain in an unsatisfactory condition.

The producing capacity of the country is steadily increasing, and in cereal production its status is evidenced by the fact that as a corn exporter the Argentine Republic took first rank in 1908, occupying the place formerly held by the United States. In the production of this foodstuff the country ranks third, and as a wheat grower fifth. It is first as an exporter of frozen meat and second as a shipper of wool.

In the number of its cattle the Republic holds third place among the nations, being ranked by India and the United States. Russia and the United States exceed it in number of horses, and Australia alone has a greater number of sheep.

The large trade balance of the country is ample indication of the year's prosperity, exports showing a great advance over the preceding year and an excess, as compared with imports, of nearly \$100,000,000. The decline in imports, as compared with 1907, is due largely to decreased receipts of railway material, of which the companies laid in large quantities prior to the operations of the Mitre law, which unified the privileges accorded to the corporations.

Industrial advancement is indicated by the increased number of mills and factories in operation; immigration figures surpassed all previous records; railroad connections were extended; and financial conditions generally were satisfactory.



DRESS PARADE, FIRE DEPARTMENT, BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.

Buenos Aires has one of the best drilled and most efficient fire departments of any of the large cities of the world. The equipment is thoroughly modern, and excellent service is rendered on all occasions. The sixteen sections into which the department is divided comprise 1,200 officers and men. The gala parades of the department show the skill and ease with which this well trained corps is able to perform the most complicated and difficult maneuvers.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

Among the affairs of importance in the administration of the foreign policies of the Government no event of the year takes rank over the general arbitration treaty with Brazil, which was promulgated in November. The Republic also participated in the Refrigeration Congress held in Paris in October, and the recommendations and reports of the Argentine delegates on pasteurization, shipment, and distribution of milk were well received. The dairy industry is attracting attention throughout the country, and Argentine butter is taking its place on the export lists of the country.

Buenos Aires has been selected as the place of meeting for the next Congress of Americanists, adjourned in Vienna in September, 1908. The conference will be held in 1910, the year of the centennial celebration of the country's independence.

The exposition of national industries, scheduled in connection with the centennial festivities, is to make a feature of transportation methods, all nations being invited to participate in a display of railway equipment and land transport generally.

The same year and place has been selected for the Fourth International Conference of the American Republics, for which active preparations are going forward throughout the republics interested.

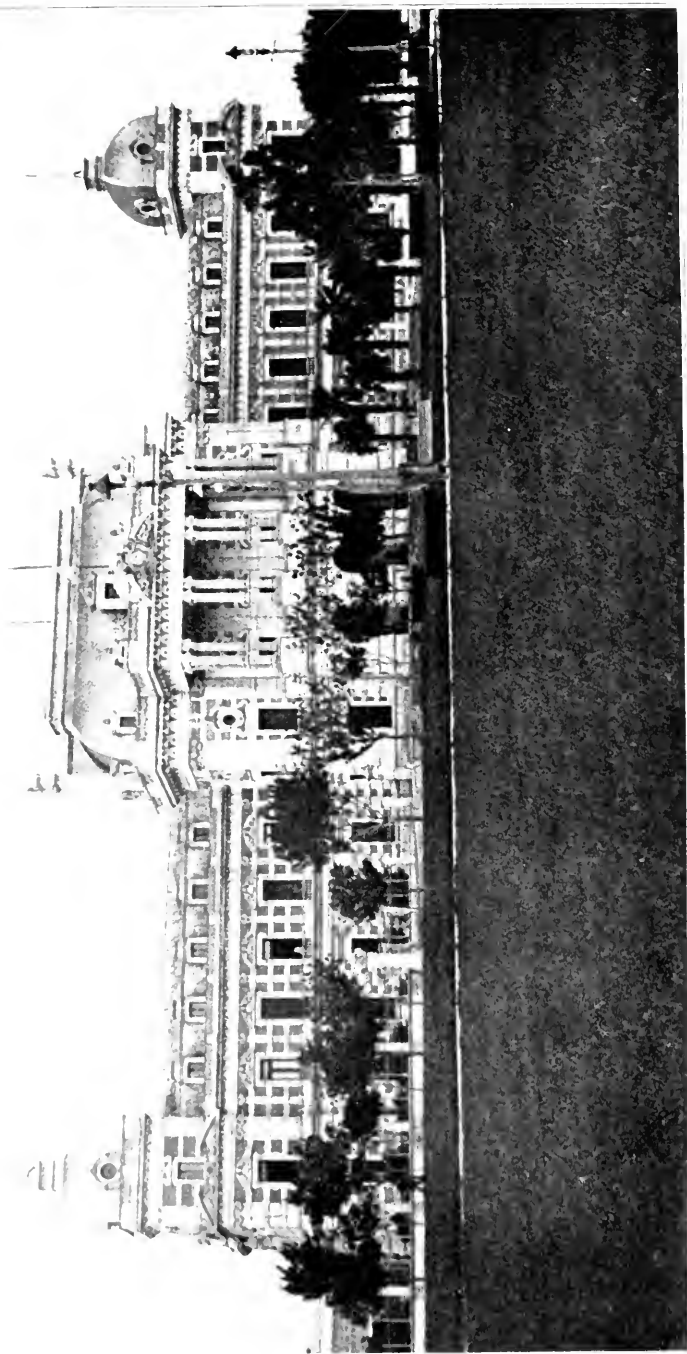
The work of the Carnegie Institute is to be continued in the Argentine Republic under the direction of Prof. LEWIS BOSS. The assistance rendered by the Argentine Government has greatly aided in the advancement of this work.

Progress in matters of public utility during the year was very satisfactory. Numerous concessions granted were to increase existing railway lines, to supply new harbor accommodations at Buenos Aires, and for water and drainage works.

FINANCE.

The financial situation remains satisfactory, the national revenues being ample for the ordinary requirements, and the public debt service was promptly met without recourse to the credit available at the Argentine National Bank. At the close of the year the total liabilities of the Government were \$378,500,000. The Province of Buenos Aires successfully floated a loan for the completion of a reclamation project by which a large area of arable land will become available.

The report of the Minister of Finance showed treasury receipts for the year amounting to \$112,000,000 derived from customs receipts and internal-revenue taxes. Import duties figured in the receipts to the extent of nearly \$57,000,000, divided among Buenos Aires, Rosario, La Plata, and Bahia Blanca in the order named. All of these ports,



GOVERNMENT HOUSE, LA PLATA.

with the exception of Rosario, showed an increase in imports over 1907. The expenditures reached a total of \$103,000,000, leaving a surplus of \$9,000,000.

The budget for 1909 as approved by the National Congress provides for expenditures of \$25,907,777 gold and ₧198,344,400, with estimated revenues of \$67,820,433 and ₧100,639,516. Bank deposits in the Republic on January 31, 1908, aggregated \$23,538,215 and ₧811,026,530, while the cash on hand on the same date amounted to \$47,570,137 and ₧230,161,400. The Government gold reserve for the conversion of national currency amounted to \$126,482,515.76, an increase of \$21,368,644.26 over 1907.

The capital of the Bank of the Argentine Nation was increased by a law authorizing the issue of bonds to the amount of \$17,177,000 gold, secured by the general revenues of the Republic.

British capital continued to figure prominently in various enterprises to the extent of £243,000,000, railways proving the principal attraction for investors, with government bonds in second place.

COMMERCE.

The Argentine Republic was one of the few countries of the world reporting advanced trade values for the year 1908, a gain of over \$56,000,000 being reported. The immense grain crops of the year, which swelled the exports of the country, accounted for this gratifying result. The total valuation of the foreign commerce of the Republic for 1908 was \$638,978,077, as compared with \$582,065,052 in 1907. This increase is to be credited entirely to the side of exports, amounting to \$366,005,341, as compared with \$296,204,469 in 1907, a gain of \$69,800,972; while imports worth \$272,972,736 declined by \$12,887,947, the figures for the previous year having been \$285,860,683. Only for one year has the reported trade balance of \$93,022,605 been exceeded, when in 1905 the exports were greater than imports by over \$117,000,000.

The countries of origin for imports during the year under review, with the respective valuations furnished by each in comparison with the preceding year, were as follows: Great Britain, \$93,371,396, a decline of \$4,564,347; Germany, \$37,847,076, a decline of \$7,964,094; United States, \$35,597,004, a decline of \$3,245,273; France, \$26,476,917, an advance of \$1,008,891; Italy \$24,913,248, an advance of \$910,007; and Belgium, \$12,753,373, a loss of \$3,143,477. From the above figures it will be noted that the three ranking countries decreased their sales, while the two next in order increased their shipments. Great Britain holds first place, with 34.2 per cent, while Germany and the United States follow, with 13.9 and 13.2 per cent, respectively.

GREAT-BRITAIN

\$213.750.319.

BELGIUM

\$35.778.188.

GERMANY

\$34.751.994.

FRANCE

\$28.913.730.

BRAZIL

\$15.095.578.

UNITED STATES

\$13.023.238.

ITALY

NETHERLANDS

SPAIN

CANADA

CHILE

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY

URUGUAY

BOLIVIA

PARAGUAY

OTHERS

OTHERS

BOLIVIA

CHILE

PARAGUAY

NETHERLANDS

URUGUAY

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY

BRAZIL

SPAIN

BELGIUM

ITALY

FRANCE

UNITED STATES

GERMANY

GREAT BRITAIN

\$2.788.016

\$16.131.218.

\$158.062

\$726.988

\$1.509.955

\$2.028.030

\$2.207.028

\$3295.500

\$7.285.941

\$2.618.110

\$12.913.248

\$24.913.248

\$26.476.917

\$35.597.004

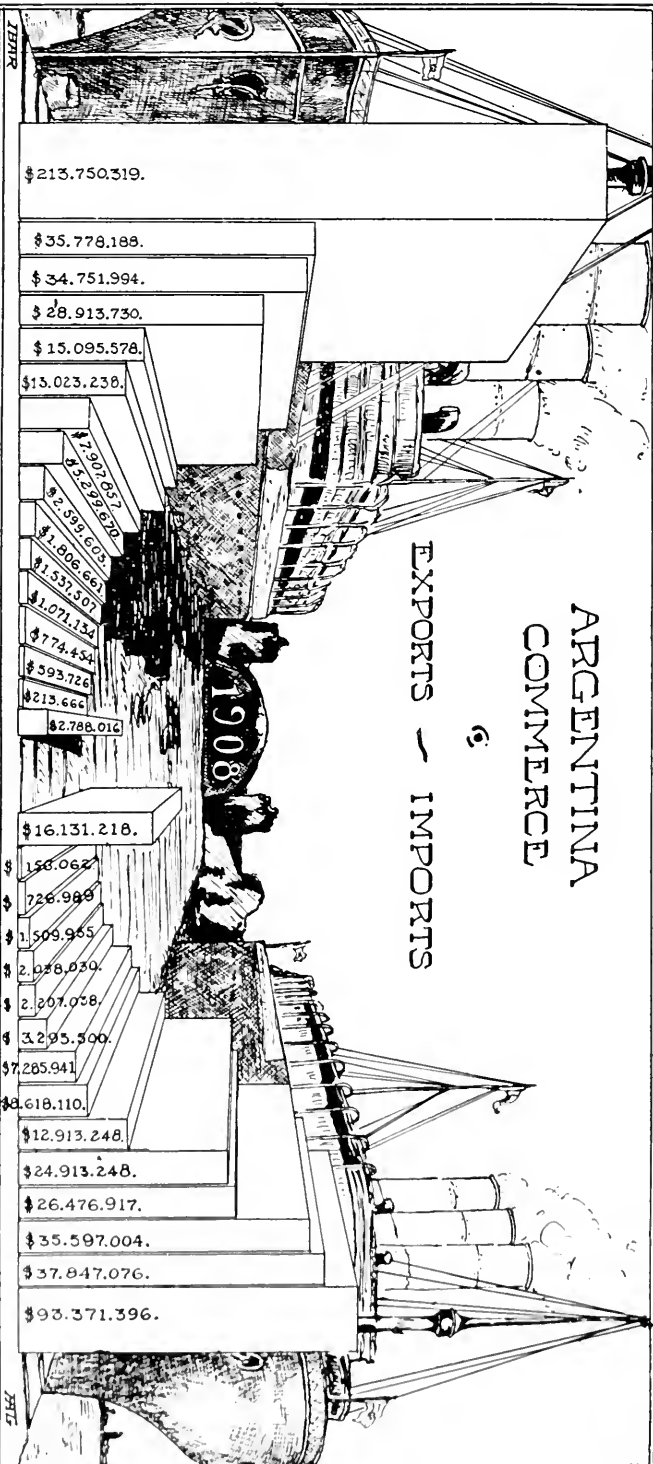
\$37.847.076

\$93.371.396

ARGENTINA COMMERCE

EXPORTS — IMPORTS

1908



A classification of the imports for the year gives textiles and manufactured goods the first place with a total of \$49,911,338, followed by transport appliances and vehicles, \$30,700,337; iron and manufactures of, \$30,075,484; pottery, ceramics, etc., \$24,897,435; foodstuffs, \$23,549,097; building materials, \$21,182,426; agricultural implements, \$15,839,838; wines and liquors, \$13,279,781; and mineral and vegetable oils, \$11,051,723. A comparison of these figures with those for the previous year shows the following gains: Pottery and ceramics, \$4,264,645; oils, \$2,966,952; foodstuffs, \$2,615,908; textiles, \$2,563,830; metals (other than iron), \$1,064,495; chemical and pharmaceutical products, \$1,000,658; and wines and liquors, \$646,042. On the other hand, a decline was noted in the following: Vehicles, \$21,620,413; iron, etc., \$3,085,655; agricultural implements, \$2,701,731; and building materials, \$1,837,967.

A review of the export values, as compared with 1907, shows Great Britain to have received \$78,324,723, a decline of \$24,608,571; Belgium, \$35,778,188, an advance of \$6,186,055; Germany, \$34,751,994, a decline of \$1,671,062; France, \$28,913,730, a decline of \$8,848,316; Brazil, \$15,095,578, an advance of \$1,077,147; United States, \$13,023,238, an advance of \$2,082,802. While Great Britain is credited with 21.4 per cent of the export values, it must also be borne in mind that 37 per cent of these figures represent grain shipments subject to distribution in accordance with subsequent orders, most of which finds a sale in British markets. Belgium follows with 9.8 per cent; Germany, 9.5; France, 7.9; Brazil, 4.1, and the United States, 3.6.

A classification of the exports into six general divisions show agricultural products worth \$241,677,164, a gain of \$77,585,543 over 1907; live-stock products \$115,118,457, a decline of \$8,701,748; forest products \$6,347,234, an increase of \$1,004,877; fish and game \$498,612, an increase of \$330,947.

Exports of cereals showed a gain over 1907, wheat taking the lead with 3,636,294 tons, an increase of 955,492 tons; corn coming second with 1,711,804 tons, an advance of 455,492 tons; linseed third with 1,055,650 tons, or 291,914 tons more than the previous year, while oats, although fourth with 440,041 tons, showed a gain of 296,475 tons over 1907. This is accounted for by the fact that the United States, owing to a short crop, was a large importer of Argentine oats, receipts being reported of 4,000,000 bushels in twelve months. Argentine corn also figured in the country's trade lists for 200,000 bushels. Wool exports showed an increase of 20,728 tons over 1907, the total shipments for the year amounting to 175,538 tons; frozen beef reached a total of 180,915 tons, an increase of 42,593 tons; while in jerked beef there was a decline of 3,999 tons, amounting to only

6,650 tons in 1908. Hay showed a decrease of 14,799 tons, the exports of this article reaching only 32,078 tons, while quebracho wood and quebracho extract amounted to 254,571 tons and 48,162 tons, respectively, an advance over the previous year of 8,057 and 19,967 tons. In shipments of hides there was a healthy increase, and of those exported in 1908, the United States took 1,466,143, Germany 1,200,696, and Italy 654,716. Exports of sheepskins showed a gratifying increase, 76,371 bales being exported as against 59,260 in 1907. France was the principal consumer, taking 55,262 bales, and the United States 7,669.

In pastoral products the following articles showed the increased valuations recorded: Frozen and chilled meats, \$5,275,000; tanned sheepskins, \$281,600; butter, \$206,000; tallow and melted fat, \$1,224,000; margarine, \$205,000; goatskins, \$300,000; bones, \$296,000; while the following articles decreased in the amounts stated: Live animals, \$314,000; hair, \$136,500; hides, \$900,000; sheepskins, \$2,600,000; wool, \$12,000,000; jerked beef, \$405,000; meat extract, \$411,000.

The increased valuations noted for agricultural products were: Oats, \$6,104,000; barley, \$436,000; linseed, \$12,923,483; maize, \$11,902,886; wheat, \$46,114,863; flour, \$436,400; bran, \$146,500; and various seeds, \$410,000. The only considerable decrease was \$170,000 in hay and \$808,000 in canary seed.

From investigation of the trade lists of other countries, it is found that five countries—Great Britain, Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands, and Brazil—take more than 90 per cent of the Argentine shipments of wheat, flax, maize, and quebracho, other countries merely supplementing short crops or supplying temporary necessities.

Shipments of live stock during the year comprised 4,032 steers, 37,951 wethers, 3,487 horses, and 1,042 mules. Steers and wethers showed an increase of nearly 2,000 each, Brazil taking over one-half of the steers and Belgium practically all of the wethers. Horses decreased by nearly 1,000 and mules by 14,500. South Africa and Brazil still lead in the import of Argentine horses, 1,255 and 1,228, respectively, being credited to the two countries.

The Republic has done much to cement firmer trade relations with countries heretofore occupying unimportant positions on its trade list, as is shown by increased imports from Italy, Spain, Austro-Hungary, France, the Netherlands, and Chile.

INDUSTRIES.

The paramount importance of agriculture among the industries of the Republic is demonstrated by the trade returns for the year 1908. The production of cereals for the year was estimated at about 5,250,000 tons. The crops for the year were: Wheat, 5,263,705 tons; lin-

seed, 1,100,700 tons; and oats, 492,770 tons. Corn exports represent practically the entire crop of 1,711,804 tons.

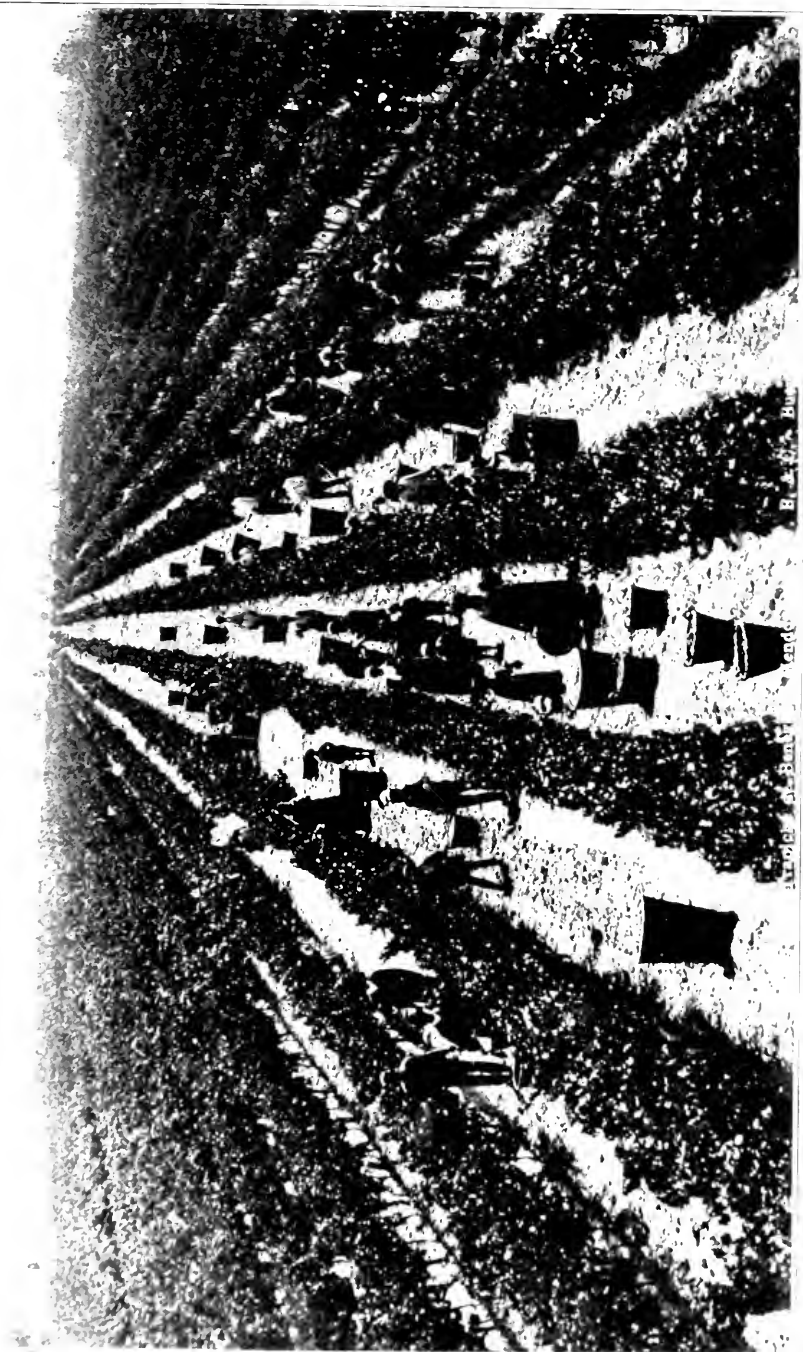
The general area of cereals under cultivation in 1908 was 39,500,000 acres, the area under wheat, linseed, and maize and oats being 15,000,000, 3,835,000, 7,434,000, 1,393,000 acres, respectively.

The agricultural area under cultivation in 1908, as compared with 1895, has increased 216 per cent. A large portion of this increase is due to the increase in the cultivation of wheat, the area of which shows an increase of 195 per cent as compared with 1895. During the same period the linseed area increased 295 per cent, and the maize area 138 per cent. A phenomenal increase is noted in the cultivation of oats. The cultivation of alfalfa has also largely increased during the past decade, and it is estimated that the 1,782,000 acres of alfalfa under cultivation in 1895 increased to over 10,000,000 in 1908. Viticulture has also largely increased, and the area now under this cultivation is estimated at 140,000 acres.

Under careful government regulation and the application of the latest and most approved scientific methods the Republic maintained its place among the countries of the world engaged in stock raising. This is especially true with regard to cattle, as the last returns from seven provinces showed \$536,800,000 invested in this industry. A recent agricultural and pastoral census of the Republic showed live stock in the following quantities: Cattle, 29,116,625; horses, 7,531,376; mules, 465,037; donkeys, 285,088; sheep, 67,211,754; goats, 3,245,086; and hogs, 1,403,591, representing a total valuation of \$645,000,000. Annual expositions of live stock held at Palermo, in the vicinity of the capital, show a constant improvement in breeding and selection of stock, and the promulgation of the executive decree of May 8, 1908, enforcing rigid quarantine regulations in regard to imported live stock, clearly indicates the attitude of the Government in the protection of one of the country's principal industries.

The Republic now occupies first place among the countries of the world as a purveyor of frozen meat, though the industry is as yet practically in its infancy, and with the cheapest and most excellent raw material in the world at hand in inexhaustible quantities it will undoubtedly reach proportions greatly in excess of the present. This industry in 1907 represented over \$35,000,000 and gave employment in various establishments to nearly 5,000 workmen. In the beef-salting factories of the River Plate region the cattle slaughtered numbered 1,426,800 in 1908. Uruguay furnished 754,300; Brazil, 425,000; and the Argentine Republic, 247,500. This field has attracted the attention of United States capitalists, and the packing interests are investing large sums in Argentine establishments.

The sugar output, of which the Province of Tucuman is the producing center, amounted to nearly 120,000 tons which, although



A VINEYARD IN THE PROVINCE OF MENDOZA.

not entirely satisfactory, showed a considerable increase over previous years. Domestic consumption is 140,000 tons necessitating importations to the extent of some 20,000 tons to meet the demands of the home market. The wine industry, at the beginning of 1908, represented capital aggregating \$59,000,000 with an average annual output of 1,890,000 hectoliters valued at \$12,500,000. This industry also is as yet in its infancy. In the Provinces of Mendoza and San Juan the vintage for the past year was placed at 1,200,000 barrels.

The recent industrial census taken in the Republic showed tobacco manufacturing to be one of the most prosperous and flourishing industries of the country, occupying third place. The bulk of the imported leaf is used in the manufacture of fine cigars and cigarettes, the tobacco grown in the country being employed largely for smoking tobacco. During the five years, from 1903 to 1907, inclusive, imports of tobacco aggregated 10,468 tons, of which 2,925 tons were imported in 1907. There are 77 tobacco factories in the country, of which 46 belong to foreigners. These represent an investment of \$3,140,272 and a yearly output valued at \$12,783,158.

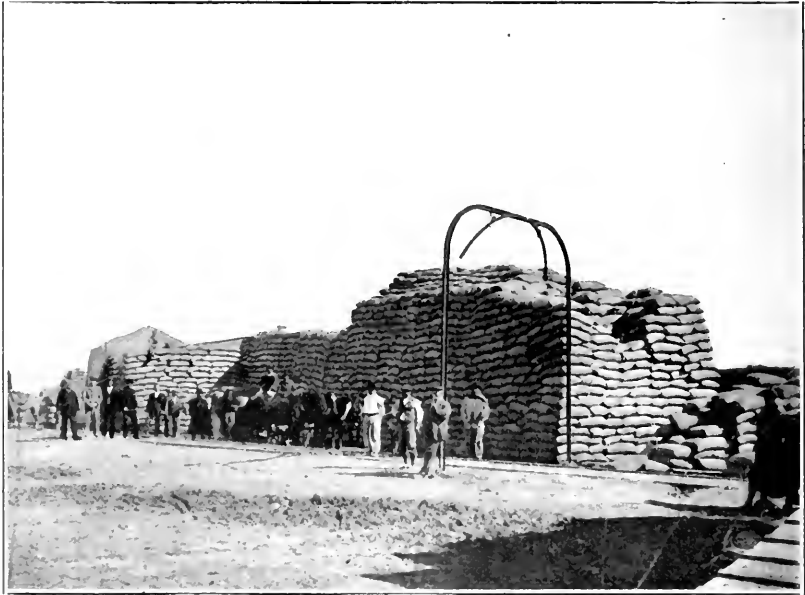
Nearly \$7,000,000 were spent during the year in importations of textile goods, the twine and sacking used in harvesting figuring largely in the total. Much of the material heretofore imported can be produced to advantage in the country where the large areas of easily accessible and fertile lands should attract capitalists and stimulate the cultivation of fibrous plants, thus giving an impetus to an industry of great profit to the country. This matter has already been taken up in a small way in the town of Brugo, Province of Entre Rios, where the manufacture of twine, cord, and sacking has been commenced. The article produced competes advantageously with the products of foreign looms.

Progress in silk culture, another of the infant industries of the Republic, for the year 1908, while not entirely satisfactory, is full of hope for the future. The raw material produced has been pronounced by European experts to be of excellent quality, and the Government assists in spreading a knowledge of the possibilities of this industry. A total of 11,500,000 mulberry trees is reported in the Republic, of which Santa Fé has 5,200,000, Cordoba 4,500,000, Entre Rios 1,500,000, and other provinces 250,000.

At the beginning of 1908 the wheat milling industry showed a total of 350 establishments of which 47 commenced operation during the previous year. As a result of the modern methods employed in most of the mills the yield of flour increased from 64.5 per cent in 1895 to 68.3 in 1907.

The cultivation of maté is being fostered by the Government, and 50,000 plants have been purchased for distribution to settlers on easy terms with full instructions as to their cultivation.

Many causes contribute to the noticeable lack of interest shown in the exploitation of the mineral resources of the Republic, chief of which are lack of available capital, difficulties of transportation, and the high price of fuel. Official statistics show gold exports from 1903 to 1907 to have reached a total of \$1,910,912, or a yearly average of about \$382,000. Copper figured prominently in the mineral productions and marble showed a steady increase from 1895 to 1901, after which it remained stationary. Salt is mined in quantities insufficient for local consumption and other mineral deposits exploited in a small way. The future of this branch of industry is bright, however,



WHEAT AWAITING TRANSPORTATION, ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.

The production of wheat in the Republic is about five and a half million tons a year, of which over four million tons are exported, mostly to Europe.

as many of the precious metals abound in the Republic, requiring only the necessary capital to develop them and add to the resources of the nation.

Industrial companies and public-utility corporations reported a prosperous year; capital so employed represented an aggregate investment of \$133,199,631, with a total yearly output of \$267,322,462 and a working force of 118,315 workmen.

The most important industrial enterprises, other than agricultural and pastoral, from the point of view of capital, are meat packing and refrigerating plants, \$31,136,973; breweries, \$16,950,000; flour mills, \$41,357,022; paper mills, \$6,189,000.

Of the public-utility corporations in the capital, the seven street-railway companies represented a total mileage of 608 kilometers, with 5,778 operatives and 1,665 cars. The city lighting represented an output of 28,105,103 kilowatts of current, and for private consumption three gas companies furnished 37,000,000 cubic meters of gas. The royalties accruing to the municipality of Buenos Aires for the last quarter of 1908 from the German electric company amounted to \$181,245 on a basis of 6 per cent for the period indicated. Other public utilities in contemplation are an underground railroad, the enlargement of the port of Buenos Aires by the construction of a deep-water canal to connect with the Parana de las Palmas River, to cost \$47,000,000, and a custom-house at Buenos Aires to be erected at an expense of \$1,650,000.

Real-estate transfers recorded during the year amounted to \$98,811,621, as compared with \$88,627,961 in 1907, while mortgage transactions covered 6,577 properties, representing 3,844,059 square meters, held as security for loans aggregating \$42,246,289.

Land companies in the Republic had a prosperous year, as is shown by their yearly reports.

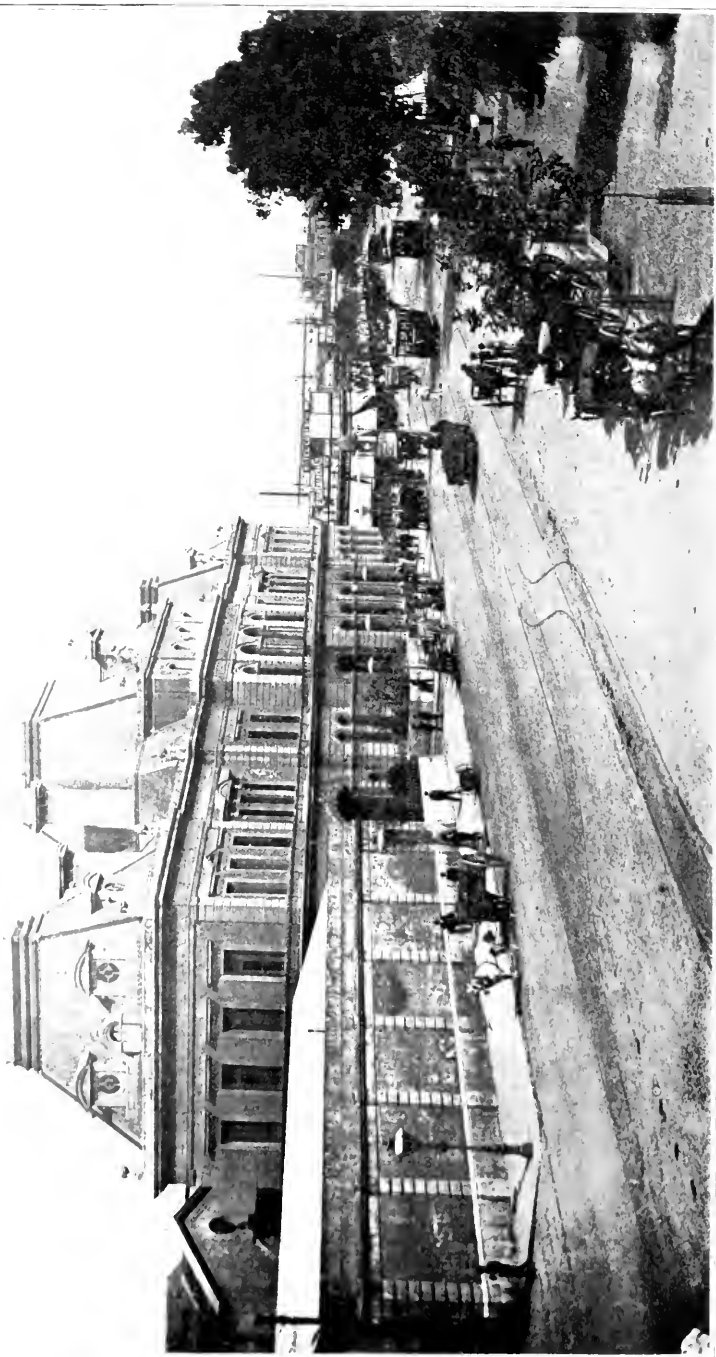
The public domain of the Republic in March, 1907, was 203,798,650 acres available for settlement and which the Government holds at \$1 per hectare.

RAILWAYS.

The Argentine Republic is practically covered with a network of railways, which extend in every direction and connect the capital with all points north and south, and the ports of Bahia Blanca, Rosario, Parana, Santa Fe, and San Nicolas with the interior. The railway extending north from Buenos Aires via Rosario, Santa Fe, Tucuman, Salta, and Jujuy connects with the Bolivian Railway, and will, when completed, establish direct communication with the capital of Bolivia. The Buenos Aires and Pacific Railway, between Buenos Aires and Mendoza, makes connection with the Transandine Railway at the latter point, which railway, when completed, will establish the much-needed railway connection between Chile and Argentina.

At present there are in operation in the country 15,476 miles of railways, representing a capitalization of over \$788,964,416. Nearly 1,000 miles were added in 1908. Receipts from operating roads during the year are estimated at \$101,391,000 and expenses at \$61,368,000, leaving a profit to the companies interested of \$40,023,000. The number of passengers carried was 48,593,600, and freight transported amounted to 31,930,600 tons.

The majority of these lines are owned and operated by private companies, although three of the lines, viz, the Central Norte, Argen-



SOUTHERN RAILWAY STATION, BUENOS AIRES.

tino del Norte, and the Andino railways, are owned and operated by the Argentine Government. These last have a total mileage of 1,838 miles.

Buenos Aires, the capital, is the center of the Argentine railway system, and from this city, trunk lines extend to the city of Rosario, 186 miles; to the city of San Juan, capital of the Province of San Juan, 745 miles, which line also connects with the city of Mendoza, tapping the fertile wine district, as well as with the Transandine Railway; to the city of Cordoba, the capital of the province of the same name, known as the city of churches and universities, a distance of 433 miles. Another trunk line extends from Buenos Aires in a southwesterly direction, connecting all the more important points in the Province of Buenos Aires with the capital, and extending into the Territories of Neuquen and Pampa, 785 miles long.

From Rosario a trunk line extends to the cities of Salta and Jujuy, in the extreme north, connecting at Tucuman, the center of the sugar industry, with a total length of 810 miles. This line runs through the grain belt of the Argentine Republic, of which Rosario may be called the center, handling the largest percentage of the grain exports, and second only to Buenos Aires in its total foreign trade. From Corrientes, the capital of the province of the same name, a railway, 330 miles in length, extends in a southeasterly direction through the Province of Corrientes and the fertile region of the Province of Entre Rios, as far as the cities of Concordia and Gualeguaychu, a branch line connecting with the city of Parana, on the Parana River.

The progressive spirit of the nation is shown by the fact that during the past year Congress granted concessions for the construction of new railway lines representing nearly 3,125 miles of railway, the building of which will involve an expenditure of nearly \$25,000,000, and for which the President has been authorized to issue bonds. Existing lines were extended and connections established via Rosario with the northern limits of the Province of Santa Fe, and a French company has begun work on a line to connect with the railroad between Rosario and Point Belgrano, which will tap a rich section of land suitable for agriculture and stock raising. To the south also the work of extending existing mileage showed progress, and the appointment of two committees for the survey of new railroad lines in that direction gave ample assurance that the Government was fully alive to the immense possibilities of Patagonia. Improvement of fluvial navigation also figured in the government project for the betterment of the national transport, an appropriation of \$3,850,000 having been made for that purpose.

STEAMSHIPS.

The principal port in the Argentine Republic, at which most of the foreign vessels enter and clear, is the port of Buenos Aires, while

Rosario de Santa Fé is the second in size. Bahia Blanca and La Plata, in the Province of Buenos Aires, are also accessible for ocean-going vessels and have considerable import and export trade.

Five steamship lines ply between ports of the United States and Buenos Aires, viz, the Lamport & Holt Steamship Company, the Prince Line, the Norton Line, the Houston Line, and the United States and River Plate Steamship Company. Of these only the first-named company has a regular passenger service between New York and Buenos Aires, steamers leaving New York once a month, making the run in twenty-four to twenty-six days. The other four lines have only foreign boats, with limited passenger accommodation in this service, leaving New York or New Orleans at irregular intervals, and occupying from twenty-eight to forty days in the voyage. First-class passage on the Lamport and Holt steamers ranges from \$190 to \$250 one way, while the rates on the other four steamship lines vary from \$125 to \$160.

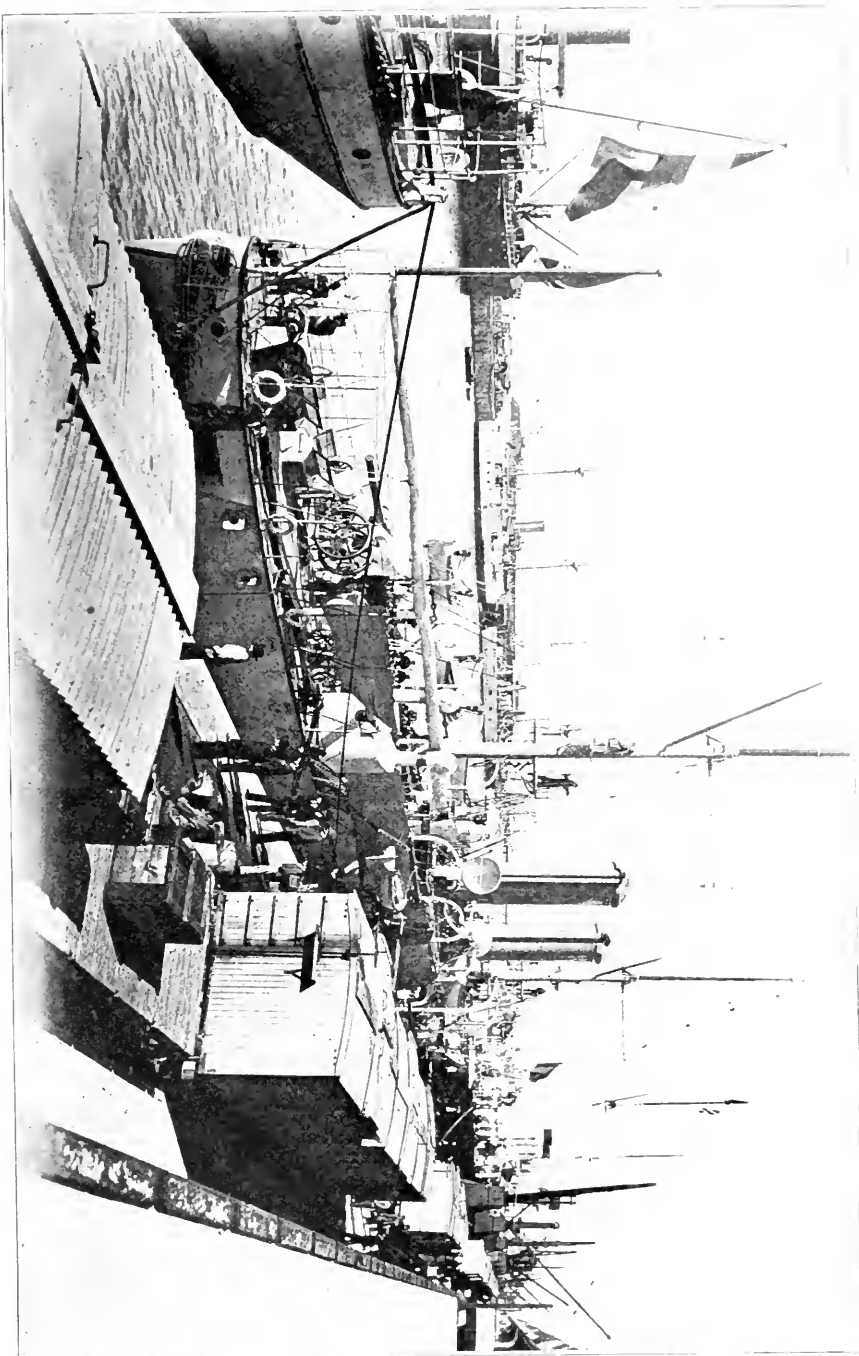
An excellent service, for both passengers and freight, is, however, maintained with all European ports, there being three Italian, two French, two English, two German, one Spanish, and Danish line with regular weekly or biweekly service between the ports of Genoa, Burdeos, Marseilles, Liverpool, Hamburg, Bremen, Barcelona, etc., and Buenos Aires. These steamers take from fifteen to twenty-five days for the trip, the passenger rates varying from \$135 to \$250 one way. The Royal Mail Steamship Company and the Hamburg South American Steamship Company have the fastest and most elegantly equipped steamers in this service, and usually take from sixteen to eighteen days between Southampton and Buenos Aires, while the Italian liners make the run from Genoa to Buenos Aires in about the same time.

The Pacific Steam Navigation Company's passengers are transhipped at Montevideo (whence these steamers proceed directly to the West Coast), at which port the White Star Line's steamers also touch, establishing communication with Australia and New Zealand.

With Rio de Janeiro and all Brazilian ports connection is made by the Lloyd Brazilerio steamers, while the Hamburg South American Company has established a regular line of steamers, flying the Argentine flag, between Buenos Aires and all points south as far as Puerto Gallegos.

Three lines of steamers ply between Buenos Aires and Montevideo, making the run in one night, and regular service is maintained by the Mihanovich line between Buenos Aires and points on the Parana, Uruguay, and Paraguay River as far as Asuncion, the capitol of Paraguay, five days being required for the entire trip.

The shipping for the year showed arrivals of vessels numbering 2,232, representing a total tonnage of 1,888,741 tons, which as com-



DOCK NO. 4, BUENOS AIRES.

pared with 1907 is an increase in steam tonnage of 998,978 tons, and of sailing vessels 10,931 tons. Of this total tonnage the United States was credited with 4,074 tons, represented by four small sailing vessels.

WATERWAYS.

The Argentine Republic has been endowed by nature with a number of excellent waterways, some of which form the means of transportation and communication for several provinces, and connection with Paraguay and Bolivia, as well as with Uruguay and the interior of Brazil.

There are a number of interior ports, such as Concordia, Concepcion del Uruguay, Corrientes, La Paz, San Nicholas, Parana, Santa Fe, and Campana, all of which afford good anchorage for ocean-going vessels.

Among the rivers are the Uruguay, navigable up to the city of Concordia for large steamers; the Parana, navigable for ships of 12 feet draft as far as the city of Corrientes; the Paraguay, navigable for vessels of 12 feet draft as far as the city of Asuncion, in Paraguay, and for light-draft vessels almost in its entire length of 1,800 miles; while the Pilcomayo and the Bermejo are both navigable for short distances.

The Rio Negro is likewise navigable for vessels of light draft for a considerable length, as are the Chubut, Senguer, Descado, Rio Chico, Santa Cruz, and Gallegos rivers. These afford the means of transportation for the southern provinces and territories.

Five companies operating river steamers establish communication between the different ports and cities on the Paraguay, Uruguay, and Parana River, as well as on the estuary of the mighty La Plata, or River Plate, formed by the confluence of these three rivers, which is 150 miles wide at its mouth in the Atlantic Ocean near Montevideo, and extends for some 200 miles inland, narrowing down to only 35 miles wide, where the Parana and Uruguay empty into it.

A number of picturesque lakes are to be found in the southern part of the country, among which Lake Nahuel Huapi, which has a total area of 309 square miles and on which there are 26 little islands. Other lakes of importance are San Martin, Viedma, and Argentino, all of which are notable for their scenic beauty, and are navigable for small craft.

Among the port improvements in contemplation by the Government are included the widening of the channel at Rosario, the construction of a ship canal at Buenos Aires, irrigation works on the Tercero River, and the construction of a port at the mouth of the Quequen Grande River. In addition to the foregoing, Congress has

authorized a special loan of \$420,000 for dredging the Gualeguaychu River and \$175,000 for the construction of a road bridge over the Tunuyan River.

POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS.

The postal service of the country at the close of 1908 included 2,377 offices, handling mail matter aggregating 705,000,000 pieces and parcels to the number of 2,020,000, and showed receipts amounting to \$8,328,988.67, an increase of 7 per cent over 1907. The telegraph system at the end of the same year showed a mileage of 15,900 miles, transmitted 10,840,000 messages over 30,500 miles of wire, gave employment to 9,457 persons, and showed receipts amounting to \$2,476,140.11. New lines covered 240 miles, and the Government is at present considering the laying of a direct cable line with Europe. The erection of new buildings for the use of the postal and telegraph systems as contemplated by the Government in the Province of San Juan involved an expenditure of ₧250,000 and ₧50,000 is to be spent for the extension of existing telegraph lines in that district.

The Argentine Government has established a number of wireless stations along the coast, which have been operated with flattering success.

The tide of immigration still flows toward the Republic. The figures for 1908 showed 303,112 arrivals, an increase of 46,607 over the preceding twelve months. Five pastoral colonies are to be laid out by the Government, under agreement with a German syndicate, in the territory of Santa Cruz, of which a proportion will be reserved for immigrant families to be introduced directly from Germany by the company.

EDUCATION.

Public instruction in the Argentine Republic is divided into three classes—primary, secondary, and higher education. Primary education is compulsory and free for children between 6 and 14 years of age. There are 5,250 public schools for primary instruction in the Argentine Republic maintained by the Federal Government, aside from the numerous schools supported by the provinces. The schools in the capital and in the territories are under the supervision of a National Council of Education, which occupies a handsome building in the city of Buenos Aires.

Secondary education is not compulsory, but it is practically free, there being only a small fee charged for registration, etc. Sixteen lyceums and 35 normal schools, situated in all the larger cities of the Republic, provide for secondary or preparatory education.

The national universities at Cordoba and Buenos Aires and the provincial universities at La Plata, Santa Fe, and Parana provide

higher education, with faculties for law and social sciences, medicine, exact, physical, and natural sciences, and philosophy and literature.

A National School of Commerce, situated in the city of Buenos Aires, instructs expert accountants and translators, while a School of Mines (in the city of San Juan), the Agrarian and Veterinary School at Santa Catalina (Province of Buenos Aires), the Viticultural School at Mendoza, the National School of Pilots, and the commercial schools at Cordoba and Bahia Blanca are either maintained or subsidized by the National Government.



PRESIDENT MITRE SCHOOL, BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.

This commodious and well-equipped edifice was specially constructed by the Federal Government for use of the primary and grammar grades. The public school system of Buenos Aires is under the control of a school board, and primary instruction is obligatory.

A number of scholars from each province are annually sent abroad at the expense of the Government to complete their studies at the various colleges and universities of the United States, England, Germany, France, and Italy, there being at the present time 30 of these students in the various universities and colleges of the United States.

Numerous private schools established in every section of the country also provide educational advantages.

The Industrial School of Buenos Aires, which has recently removed to new and extensive quarters, is also maintained by the National Government. It has elaborate workshops, and provides

for the teaching of all trades and crafts, being equipped with all the necessary machinery and appliances.

The National Conservatory of Music and the School of Drawing, as well as the School of Art, are other institutions enjoying the official support of the Argentine Government, while a number of libraries are open to the public. The National Museum of History, the Museum of Fine Arts, and the Museum of Natural History at Buenos Aires and the famous Museum of La Plata are other interesting institutions.

The Government maintains agricultural stations at Tucuman, Bella Vista, San Juan, and Terna. A well-kept botanical garden, situated in the Park of Palermo, Buenos Aires, affords opportunity for the study of horticulture, and the Zoological Garden, in which can be found representatives of all species of animals from all parts of the globe, is one of the most popular resorts of the people of Buenos Aires.

Numerous literary, scientific, industrial, commercial, and agricultural societies exist throughout the country, some of which publish bulletins containing valuable information and arrange lectures and debates, while others, such as the *Sociedad Rural*, hold annual expositions, attended by all the well-to-do Argentinians, and forming a social event of the year.

The press is well represented in the Republic, there being several newspapers printed in even the smallest towns, while in the city of Buenos Aires there are 472 publications of all kinds, 66 of which are dailies, 16 triweeklies, 44 biweeklies, 191 weeklies, and 64 monthlies, others being irregularly issued. The press of the city of Buenos Aires is the most polyglot of any city in the world, there being 412 publications in the language of the country (Spanish), 22 in Italian, 8 in French, 8 in English, 8 in German, and 1 in Arabic. The Danish, Norwegian, Swedish, Basque, Russian, Dutch, etc., colonies all have their respective organs.

"*La Prensa*," a Buenos Aires daily, holds high rank among the world's publications. Next in importance is "*La Nación*," founded in the year 1870 by the famous Argentine statesman, Don BAROLOMÉ MITRE, while "*El Diario*" is the principal evening paper. Other Spanish papers of importance are "*El País*," "*La Razón*," "*La Argentina*," "*Tribuna*," "*El Tiempo*," "*El Pueblo*," etc. The largest English dailies are "The Standard," "The Buenos Aires Herald," and "The Southern Cross." Among the English weeklies "The Review of the River Plate" and "The Times of Argentina" are the more important, both of these being devoted to the shipping and financial interests of the country. Among the weeklies printed in Spanish, "*Caras y Caretas*" deserves especial mention, being, as it is, an entirely unique production, which is extremely popular in Argentina, with a circulation of about 80,000. "*La Ilustración Sud-Améri-*

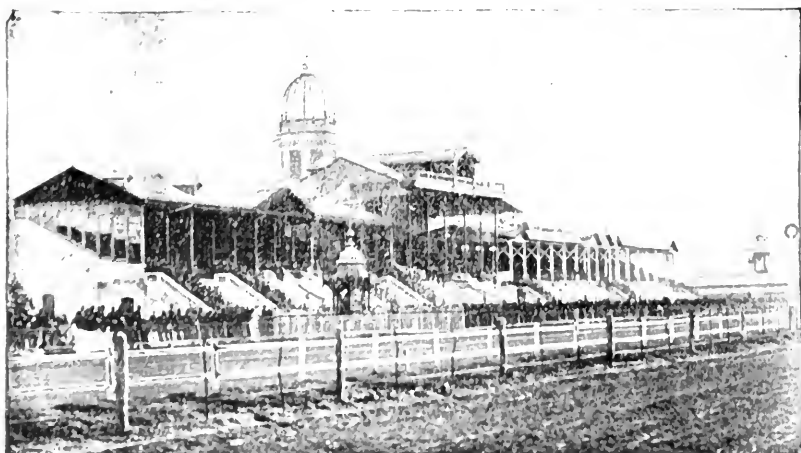
cana," a handsomely illustrated monthly, is one of the best productions of its kind, while "*La Revista de Derecho, Historia y Letras*" is a literary production of the highest order.



A PRIVATE RESIDENCE OF BUENOS AIRES

Buenos Aires is noted for the beauty of private residences. Wealthy landowners and ranchers of the interior spend a large portion of the year in the capital, and to a large extent business management of the country is concentrated in this city, which is embellished, in consequence, with magnificent and costly private homes.

The Centennial Exposition to be held in Buenos Aires in 1910 will give the world an opportunity to observe at close range the vast possibilities of the country as well as its purchasing power.



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